



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
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IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

REFER TO:

Tuberculosis Research Laboratory,  
411 East 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

February 26, 1952.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,  
Department of Genetics,  
The University of Wisconsin,  
College of Agriculture,  
Madison 6, Wisconsin.

Dear Joshua:

I am sorry to be so late in answering your letter,  
but both Molly and I have been out with colds.

Under separate cover I am sending you the requested  
cultures of our K-12 wild type strain and of the temperature-  
sensitive parent. Your deductions as to the origin of the  
mutants we sent you were quite correct. To answer your questions,  
Wollman has written a letter to Bernie from France, in which he  
reports that the W strain is lysogenic. He did not say what strain  
he used as an indicator. The K1T strain was only exposed to other  
bacteria in so much as it is kept in the same ice-box. However,  
there are some disturbing findings. I have tested the K1T strain,  
and the derivatives of it, for valine inhibition and found that  
it is not inhibited; our K-12 strain was inhibited properly.  
I don't see how a mistake could have been made in our original  
penicillin experiment but I suppose it is conceivable that there  
was a mix-up of cultures. I am now attempting to re-isolate  
temperature-sensitive mutants from our K-12 wild type, and also  
from the marked stocks. It may be interesting to see if the  
W strain is also F+. *cf W677, 58-161*

I thought that Esther's findings on the incompatibility  
factor were very interesting.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Werner*

Werner K. Maas

WKM/h1